

**Remarks**

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

1. Rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

10        Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention for reasons of record, as recited on page 2 of the above-indicated Office action.

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**Response:**

20        Claims 1-4 have been amended to overcome the rejections against claims 1-6. Particularly, in claim 1, the variables "m", "x", and "n" have been defined in the preamble of the claim. A closed range for "m", "x", and "n" cannot be specified without unnecessarily limiting the scope of the claims. The variables "m" and "x" both relate to a gray level. Many different gray level standards exist, such as having 256 gray levels, 512 gray levels, and so on. The variable "x" simply represents a specific gray level value out of the possible gray level values. The value "n" is a predetermined value that is used to create heating duration divisions.

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Because the time required to print a pixel is dependent on the gray level of the pixel, the time

values specified in claim 1 need to be expressed in terms of the gray level values used. The Applicant submits that the limits of the variables used in the claims are defined as clearly as possible without unreasonably limiting the scope of the claims. Reconsideration of claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

2. Other claim amendments:

Claim 4 is amended to correct an error given in the value for "m". This amendment is supported numerous times throughout the specification, such as in paragraph [0022]. Claim 7 is introduced to specify that the value of "n" is equal to 4. This amendment is also supported throughout the specification, and support is also given in paragraph [0022].

3. Amendment of paragraph [0025] of the specification:

Upon reviewing paragraph [0025] of the specification, the Applicant noticed a transposition error in which the values of "m" and "n" were switched. The applicant has corrected this error. Acceptance of the amended specification is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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